

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 9. New independent claim 20 recites the subject matter of dependent claim 13.

The Examiner's attention is drawn to the January 4, 2003 Office Action issued in the parent application and applicant's April 3, 2003 Response. In the Office Action issued in the parent application, dependent claims 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,475,207 to Bobba et al. The response addressed the rejection of claims 9 and 13 but, because the independent claims in the parent application were allowed on different grounds, the Examiner did not address these arguments. For at least the reasons specified in that Response, Applicant submits that the present claims are in condition for allowance. For convenience, these reasons are repeated below.

With reference to the January, 2003 Office action, the Examiner contended that it would have been obvious to use air to cool the light source as recited in dependent claim 9 in the parent application. This will be considered as being relevant to claim 1 of the present application. Claim 1 recites that "air circulated by at least one of said first polygon mirror and said second polygon mirror is used to cool at least one of said first light source and said second light source." In other words, a rotating polygon is used as a fan to circulate air around a laser. This aspect of the invention is described on p. 16 of the Specification as filed.

In contrast, in all of the embodiments disclosed in Bobba et al., the light source is located some distance away from the rotating polygon and various structures are interposed between the light source and the polygon. As a result, even if the rotation of the polygon in Bobba et al. generated local air currents, the polygon is not used as a fan to cool the light source. Accordingly, applicant submits that it would be improper to reject claim 1 as being obvious over Bobba et al.

The Examiner also contended, with respect to claim 13 of the parent application, that it would be understood that scan lines are reflected only once off the mirror arrays on their way out of the respective windows. This will be considered as being relevant to claim 20 of the present application.

Independent claim 20 recites that “the second plurality of scan lines are each reflected only once off the second stationary mirror array prior to being projected through said substantially vertical window.” In other words, the scan lines projected through the vertical window are reflected by the rotating polygon and strike only a single mirror from the stationary array before the resulting scan line exits the vertical window. In contrast, Bobba et al. merely teaches that “as the polygon mirror 30 rotates, the outgoing beam is directed across the upper mirror array 60 and then reflected out through the upper window.” (Col. 4, lines 37-39). The upper mirror array 60, shown in Fig. 3 of Bobba, contains a complicated arrangement of mirrors and there is nothing in Bobba which teaches or suggests in any way that only a single mirror in the upper mirror array is struck by a light beam before it is transmitted through the window as a scan line. Accordingly, the applicant submits that it would be improper to reject claim 20 as being obvious over Bobba et al.

With respect to additional differences between Bobba et al. and features recited in the various claims of the application, the Examiner’s attention is directed to the arguments made in the April 3, 2003 Response in the parent case.

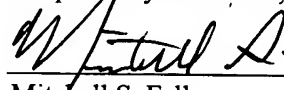
It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and an early and favorable examination is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with the applicant’s attorney would advance the progress of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Date:

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Clifford Chance US LLP
200 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10166-0153
Telephone: (212) 878-8545

Respectfully submitted,



Mitchell S. Feller
Reg. No. 42,530